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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00
	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EUR-01	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	RPE-01	/044W				

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P 301210Z NOV 93  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5136  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KIGALI 04221

BUJUMBURA FOR RSO  
YAOUNDE FOR DAO  
PARIS FOR PERLOW

E.O. 12356: OADR:DECL  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, PINR, PGOV, MOPS, RW  
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SUBJECT: MILITARY ATTACK REPORTED NEAR GISENYI

REF: A) KIGALI 4211, B) KIGALI 4098

1. (C) SUMMARY. REPORTED ATTACK NEAR GISENYI NIGHT OF  
29-30 NOVEMBER. SITUATION REMAINS UNCLEAR. ALTHOUGH  
THIS MAY BE A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS, IT  
MAY SIMPLY BE A PROVOCATION. END SUMMARY.

EARLY REPORTS OF AN RPF ATTACK ON FAR POSITIONS IN MUTUR  
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2. (U) THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCED DURING ITS 6:00 A.M. BROADCAST IN KINYARWANDAN AND ITS 6:30 A.M. BROADCAST IN FRENCH THAT THE RPF HAD ATTACKED FAR POSITIONS NEAR MUTURA, 15 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF GISENYI, SOMETIME BETWEEN 10:30 AND 11:00 P.M., MONDAY NIGHT, 29 NOVEMBER. THE ANNOUNCER REPORTED THAT FIGHTING HAD BEGUN ALONG THE SLOPES OF THE KARISIMBI VOLCANO AND THAT THE LOCAL POPULATION IN THE AREA WAS FLEEING THE AREA.

3. (U) BEFORE THE BROADCAST, THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING, CDA RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALLS FROM SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST MISSIONARIES AT THE MUDENDE UNIVERSITY NEAR MUTURA. AT 2:30 A.M., MS. MUNGER, WIFE OF THE SECURITY OFFICER, REPORTED THAT THE AMCITS ON CAMPUS HAD SEEN TRACERS NEAR THE KARISIMBI VOLCANO AND THAT THEY BELIEVED THERE WAS FIGHTING ON KARISIMBI. AT 4:00 A.M., THE MUNGERS REPORTED THAT THE FIGHTING HAD APPARENTLY STOPPED BUT THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE COMING DOWN

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THE MOUNTAIN.

TROOP MOVEMENTS BEFORE THE ATTACK AND CIVILIAN REACTION  
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4. (U) LATE SUNDAY NIGHT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE KARISOKE RESEARCH STATION (AFFILIATED WITH THE DIANE FOSSEY FOUNDATION) CALLED ECONOFF TO REPORT THAT THE STATION'S ANTI-POACHING PATROL HAD REPORTED VIA RADIO THAT THEY HAD SEEN APPROXIMATELY 30-40 FAR SOLDIERS CAMPED 900 METERS FROM THE RESEARCH STATION'S BASE CAMP ON THE BISOKE VOLCANO. THE DIRECTOR, WHO WAS IN KIGALI TAKING CARE OF SOME ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, WAS VERY CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY OF HER STAFF STILL ON THE BISOKE VOLCANO, INCLUDING AN AMERICAN AND A BRITISH RESEARCHER. WHILE THE VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK IS NOT FORMALLY WITHIN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, NO MILITARY NORMALLY OPERATE IN THE PARK.

5. (U) THE DIRECTOR ADDED THAT RESIDENTS OF KINIGI HAD CORROBORATED THE ANTI-POACHING PATROL'S REPORT. KINIGI RESIDENTS SAID THAT THEY HAD ALSO SEEN APPROXIMATELY 30-40 FAR SOLDIERS MARCHING THROUGH THE FOREST WITH HEAVY PACKS WEST ALONG THE GAHINGA VOLCANO TO SABYINYO,

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CAMPING IN BISOKE AND THEN CONTINUING ON ALONG THE SLOPE OF KARISIMBI. BECAUSE OF FEARS THAT FIGHTING MIGHT BEGIN AGAIN, MAMY RESIDENTS WERE REPORTEDLY PREPARING TO LEAVE KINIGI AS EARLY AS SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

6. (U) THE DIRECTOR OF KARISOKE CALLED ECONOFF AGAIN MONDAY TO REPORT THAT MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-POACHING  
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PATROLS AND THE PORTERS HAD TOLD HER THAT THERE WERE TROOPS GATHERING ON THE UGANDAN BORDER. THEIR SOURCE OF INFORMATION WAS UNKNOWN AND THE DIRECTOR DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY OR WHETHER THE TROOPS WERE FAR OR RPF. THE DIRECTOR ALSO SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN TOLD BY HER STAFF THAT SOME PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN RUHENGARI WERE REFUSING TO RETURN TO CLASSES, DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS, AND WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE THE AREA.

7. (U) THE AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF THE MUDENDE UNIVERSITY, DR. PIERSON, WHO WAS IN TOWN MOND

REITEDITHAT WHILE  
TRAVELLING FROM MUDENDE TO KIGALI, HE HAD SEEN THREE

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 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5137  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSYZTFHLRRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITYN1#29  
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
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 AG GISENYI

BUS-LOADS OF SOLDIERS AND 3-4 TRUCKS WITH HEAVY  
 EQUIPMENT (TYPE UNKNOWN) ON THE ROAD TRAVELLING TO  
 RUHENGERI. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE MILITARY  
 TRAVELLING TOWARD THE MILITARY CAMP IN RUHENGERI, IT HAS  
 NOT BEEN COMMON SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE ACCORD TO  
 SEE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT IN SUCH LARGE  
 NUMBERS.

GOR EXPLANATION FOR REPORTED FAR AND RPF TROOP MOVEMENTS  
 -----'3-----2-----

8. (C) DURING A MEETING 2  
 0.&3.?"  
 -#??" -(3\$ :9). RUSATIRA,  
 DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL, IF HE HAD ANY  
 INFORMATION AS TO WHY FAR TROOPS WOULD BE CONDUCTING

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MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK. HE SAID THAT THE SOLDIERS MAY HAVE BEEN THERE BECAUSE OF INFORMATION ABOUT RPF SOLDIERS BEING IN THE AREA BUT GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. ECONOFF CONTACTED ANOTHER OFFICER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE LATE MONDAY NIGHT TO ASK IF HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE 30-40 SOLDIERS CAMPED ON BISOKE AND THE TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR THE UGANDAN BORDER. THE OFFICER SAID HE WOULD REPORT BACK TO ECONOFF IN THE MORNING ON THE RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION BUT THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT THE RPF WAS UP TO ITS OLD TRICKS AGAIN. NOVEMBER 30, THE FAR IS REPORTING 15 DEAD; RTLM RADIO REPORTS 17 KILLED.

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9. (C) THE GENDARMERIE OPERATIONS OFFICER (AND CURRENTLY ACTING COMMANDER) TOLD POL/MILOFF AND ECONOFF THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FIREFIGHT AT KABATWA (4 KILOMETERS NORTH OF MUTARA) AT 2:00 AM THAT LASTED TWENTY MINUTES. THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN REPORTED AS AN RPF ATTACK, BUT HE COMMENTED THAT SINCE IT LASTED SUCH A SHORT WHILE THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN AN ATTACK. HE SPECULATED THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN RPF RAID OR A MEETING ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN FAR AND RPF RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS, BUT DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN TWO FAR PATROLS FIRING ON ONE ANOTHER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NIGHT OPERATIONS ARE NEARLY ALWAYS CONFUSING, AND SAID THAT HIS HEADQUARTERS WAS AWAITING GREATER CLARITY. IT WAS NOT EVEN KNOWN WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY MILITARY CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT.

10. (C) THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE RWANDAN ARMY DEPARTED KIGALI BY HELICOPTER EARLY MORNING, 30 NOVEMBER TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT. POST IS AWAITING THE ARMY'S REPORT.

THE RPF RESPONSE TO ACCUSATIONS OF AN ATTACK  
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11. (U) POL/MILOFF ASKED THE RPF LIAISON OFFICER, COMMANDER KARENZI, ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT MID-MORNING. KARENZI ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT SPOKEN TO RPF HEADQUARTERS YET AND THEREFORE DID NOT HAVE ANY

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	ASDS-01	RPE-01	/044W				

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DETAILS. HE SPECULATED THAT THE RUMORED ACTIVITY MAY HAVE BEEN A CONTINUATION OF FAR REPRESSION OF OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS IN THE VICINITY OF BISOKE, WHICH KARENZI CLAIMED HAD STARTED DURING THE PAST WEEKEND. HE CONCLUDED BY PROMISING TO PHONE THE EMBASSY AFTER ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH RPF OFFICIALS.

THE UN INTERPRETATION OF THE INCIDENT  
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12. (U) THE UN INFORMATION OFFICER PASSED THE FOLLOWING VERSION TO POL/MILOFF. AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE TOOK PLACE AT KABATWA, LASTING FROM 10:00 PM UNTIL "THIS MORNING." CIVILIANS INDICATE THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 30 ATTACKERS AND THAT THEY "COULD BE" RPF, BUT THEY WERE NOT/NOT SURE. TEN DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE INCIDENT. THE RPF TOLD THE UN THAT THEY BELIEVE THE ENTIRE AFFAIR IS A RWANDAN GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO "PROVOKE" AN INCIDENT THAT COULD BE BLAMED ON THE RPF.

COMMENT  
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13. (C) THIS NEW ACCUSATION OF RPF AGGRESSION IS AGGRAVATING ALREADY HEIGHTENED TENSIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE RUHENGERI KILLINGS NOVEMBER 17 (REF B) AND RECENT MINE INCIDENTS IN THE DMZ. WHILE MANY RWANDANS ARE WILLING TO BELIEVE THE RPF IS AT FAULT, THE EVIDENCE IS FAR FROM CLEAR. FOR ONE THING, THE LOCATION OF THIS INCIDENT IS WELL OUTSIDE THE DMZ AND MUCH CLOSER TO THE

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ZAIRIAN BORDER THAN TO THE UGANDAN BORDER; TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF RPF BASES IN ZAIRE.

14. (C) CDA STRESSED TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL DURING DEMARCHE 11/30 THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ALLOW THESE INCIDENTS, SERIOUS AS THEY ARE, TO DEFER OR DERAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD AND FORMATION OF THE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT. DG AGREED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT DELAY. HE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES ON CDA SUGGESTION THAT A JOINT STATEMENT MIGHT BE USEFUL FROM HIGH LEVELS IN THE GOR AND RPF DENOUNCING RECENT PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS AND

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REAFFIRMING THEIR INTENTIONS TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD. HE WAS NOT, HOWEVER  
SANGUINE THAT IT COULD BE OBTAINED. HE WAS ALSO  
RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTION FOR JOINT GOR-RPF SUPPORT AT UN  
FOR ACCELERATED DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR.  
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